FORT SUMTER NATIONAL MONUMENT
FORT SUMTER MUSEUM

EXHIBIT COPY
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Section I

Fort Sumter
Where the Civil War Began
April 12, 1861

In the early dawn of April 12, 1861, a mortar shell fired from Fort Johnson in Charleston Harbor burst over Fort Sumter, inaugurating the American Civil War. For 34 hours Confederate forces bombarded the fort, forcing the Federal garrison to surrender. On April 14 victorious Southern troops claimed their prize.

For the next four years Fort Sumter remained a Confederate stronghold despite frequent Union attempts to capture it. Between 1863 and 1865, determined Confederate soldiers kept Federal land and naval forces at bay for 587 days - - one of the longest sieges in modern warfare. By February 17, 1865, the fort was virtually demolished and the Civil War was nearly at an end. The Confederates reluctantly abandoned the fort, leaving it to be re-claimed by Federal troops.

Graphic Description:
Hand-colored contemporary engraving of the April 1861 bombardment showing a Confederate battery at Fort Johnson pounding away at Fort Sumter

Graphic Description:
National Park Service logo

Graphic Description:
Fort Sumter National Monument logo

Section II
America's Coastal Defenses
Fort Sumter Becomes a Link

Fort Sumter became one of a series of coastal fortifications built by the United States following the War of 1812 - - a war that had shown America's coastal defenses to be grossly inadequate. A plea from President James Madison led to a government survey of fortifications along the U.S. coastline. The report, completed in 1826, recommended the building of a new fort on a shoal in Charleston Harbor.

As part of the Third American System of coastal defense, the new fort would embody "structural durability, a high concentration of armament, and enormous overall fire power." With the guns of the proposed fort crossing fire with those of Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island, the important commercial seaport of Charleston would be effectively protected against attack.

Quote:

"…whether to prevent or repel danger, we ought not to be unprepared for it. This consideration will sufficiently recommend to Congress a liberal provision for the immediate extension and gradual completion of the works of defense on our maritime frontier…"

<div align="right">President James Madison to Congress
December 15, 1815</div>

Graphic Description:
Engraved portrait of President James Madison

Graphic Description:
James Madison's signature

Graphic Description:
British Capture of the City of Washington
> Label:
> The British attack on Washington, D.C. during the War of 1812 humiliated the United States. Both the Capitol and the White House were burned by the invaders, convincing President Madison and Congress to strengthen America's coastal defenses to prevent such incidents from happening again.

Graphic Description:
Panoramic view of Charleston painted by artist Thomas Leitch in 1771.
> Label:
> The Atlantic fortifications survey of 1826 recognized Charleston's importance as the only major city south of Philadelphia. As a commercial port, this "London of the Low Country" served overseas routes and enjoyed a vigorous overland trade with the Up Country. A new fort at the entrance to Charleston Harbor would protect the city from sea attacks.

Graphic Description:
Line diagram of cross-fire patterns to protect Charleston from sea attacks
> Label:
> Map of Charleston Harbor
> Cross-fire patterns between the new fort called Sumter and other land based artillery would make Charleston Harbor virtually impenetrable.

Graphic Description:
Map of Atlantic seaboard showing early coastal defenses
> Map Title, Text, and Call-Outs:
> Atlantic Fortifications
> In 1826, a government survey board suggested the fortification of a number of places along the Atlantic seaboard to enhance America's coastal defenses. A shoal in Charleston Harbor - - the future site of Fort Sumter - - was included on their list as a strategic location for a new defense structure.
>
> Maine: Portland – Ft. Prebel – Ft. Scammel – St. Sullivan
> New Hampshire
> Vermont
> Massachusetts: Boston – Salem – Ft. Warren – Ft. Independence – Ft. Constitution
> Rhode Island: Ft. Adams – Naraganset Roads
> Connecticut: Ft. Trumbull

New York: New York – Ft. Columbus – Ft. Lafayette – Ft. Schuyler – Ft. Hamilton
New Jersey
Pennsylvania: Ft. Mifflin
Delaware: Ft. Delaware
Maryland: Baltimore – Ft. McHenry – Ft. Washington
Washington
Virginia: Ft. Monroe – Hampton Roads
North Carolina: Cape Fear – Ft. Macon – Ft. Johnson
South Carolina: Charleston – Ft. Moultrie – Castle Pinckney – Ft. Sumter
Georgia: Savannah – Ft. Pulaski
Florida: Pensacola – Ft. Clinch – Ft. Barrancas – Ft. Jefferson – Ft. Taylor – Ft. Pickens
Alabama: Mobile – Ft. Morgan – Ft. Gaines
Mississippi: Ft. Massachusetts
Louisiana: New Orleans – Ft. Jackson – Ft. St. Philip – Ft. McComb – Ft. Pike

Proposed
Existing

Graphic Descriptions:
Fort Moultrie today, aerial view
Castle Pinckney today, aerial view
Fort Sumter today, aerial view
> Group Label:
> These historic forts remain in Charleston Harbor today. Sumter and Moultrie are administered by the National Park Service, Fort Sumter National Monument

Section III

The New Fort Called Sumter
A "Gibraltar" in Charleston Harbor

Wrecked by the Civil War, todays Fort Sumter only slightly resembles the huge fortification that once dominated the entrance to Charleston Harbor. Begun in 1829 and almost completed by 1860, the five-sided fort was erected on a manmade island and named for South Carolina Revolutionary War patriot Thomas Sumter.

Designed to play a vital role in Charleston's defense, the three-tiered brick structure was intended for armament of 135 guns and a garrison of 650 men, making it a virtual "Gibraltar." However, when the Civil War erupted on April 12, 1861, only 60 cannon and 85 men were on hand to defend the new fort.

Graphic Description:
Map of Charleston Harbor showing Fort Sumter and Confederate Batteries.
> Label:
> Fort Sumter's strategic location on a shoal at the entrance to Charleston Harbor and its close proximity to Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island effectively protected the harbor, denying access to enemy vessels.

Graphic Description:
Line drawing showing plan of Fort Sumter, 1833.
> Label:

About 70,000 tons of granite and other rock, plus sand and shells were brought to the shoal in Charleston Harbor to provide a foundation for the fort. Much of the material came from the North. For a time, a gap in the rock ring allowed entrance for supply vessels at high tide.

Graphic Description:
Portrait of General Thomas Sumter
Label:
General Thomas Sumter
The new fort in Charleston Harbor was named in honor of Thomas Sumter, brigadier general commanding South Carolina militia during the Revolutionary War. As the state's distinguished partisan leader, he became known respectfully as "The Gamecock of the Revolution."

Graphic Description:
Fort Sumter before the Civil War as painted by artist Seth Eastman
Label:
Construction of Fort Sumter was slow and difficult, delayed by periods of insufficient funds and a sandbar that required thousands of tons of granite before work on the superstructure could begin. During the mid-1840s, workmen began laying 7,000,000 bricks for the 5-foot-thick outer walls that would tower 50 feet above low water level. By 1860, on the eve of the American Civil War, the fort was only 90% complete.

Graphic Description:
Detail of the interior of Fort Sumter as seen from the parapet in 1861.

Graphic Description:
Officers' Quarters at Fort Sumter
Label:
Officers' Quarters
When the Federal garrison occupied Fort Sumter on December 26, 1860, neither of the enlisted men's barracks were complete. The officers' quarters, also incomplete, were observed nonetheless to have been made "for every comfort and convenience of the occupants usual in the best modern city dwelling." In addition to housing officers and their families, the officers' quarters also included ordnance storerooms and a hospital.

Graphic Description:
Interior of Fort Sumter
Label:
Interior of Fort Sumter
Of the 135 cannon planned for the gunrooms and atop the fort, only 15 had been mounted by late 1860 when Federal troops took possession of Fort Sumter. When Civil War erupted on April 12 the following year, 60 guns had been mounted by the garrison.

Graphic Description:
Diagram of Fort Sumter showing armament plan for the 1st Tier Casemate

Graphic Description:
Diagram of Fort Sumter showing armament plan for the Barbette Tier and Parade
Label:
Fort Sumter Armaments

April 12, 1861

Ordnance plans for the defense of Fort Sumter were impressive, but the number of armaments in place fell far short as the first shot of the Civil War exploded in the early morning house of April 12, 1861. As these diagrams indicate, many gun positions were closed since the Federal garrison had insufficient time to mount the fort's 135 cannon.

Artifact Description:
Bricks
Label:
Carolina gray bricks were used in constructing the fort's 5-foot-thick outer walls.

Artifact Description:
Piece of tabby
Label:
Tabby was prepared from a mixture of lime, shells and water to line powder magazines and serve as a sub-floor in the quarters' buildings.

Artifact Description:
Piece of Bluestone flagging
Label:
Bluestone flagging provided flooring for the first level of gunrooms.

Artifact Description:
Piece of original flooring
Label:
Wood flooring was used in the garrison's storerooms.

Artifact Description:
Pump
Label:
The garrison's water supply came from rain collected in five cisterns, each supplied with a hand pump.

Artifact Description:
Piece of slate shingle
Label:
Barracks and officers' quarters were roofed with slate shingles.

Artifact Description:
Marble from mantelpiece
Label:
Fireplace mantles in the officers' quarters were made of finely finished marble.

Artifact Description:
Door lock with key and door knob
Label:
The remains of this door lock, know and key are from the officers' quarters

Artifact Description:
Brass candle holder
Label:

Brass candle holders were used by officers and soldiers alike.

Artifact Description:
Nails
    Label:
    Thousands of nails were used in the construction of buildings such as store houses inside the walls of Fort Sumter.

Model Description:
Scale model of Fort Sumter circa 1861
    Label:
    Fort Sumter – April 1861
    The fort covers 2.4 acres. Cannon from its 5 sides gave wide command of the harbor. The 4 shorter walls contained 2 tiers of arched gunrooms. More guns occupied the top level. The fort had 8 powder magazines, 2 on each level at both ends of the long wall. Fort Sumter was built for 135 guns and a garrison of 650 men.

Section IV

America on the Verge of Civil War
South Carolina Leads the Way

By the summer of 1860, the Nation was divided North and South in a bitter dispute over States' Rights and the meaning of freedom in America. Slavery was at the heart of issues involving economics, politics and sectional power.

The slave labor of the agricultural South was the fuel that drove the region's economy, consisting primarily of the cash crops tobacco and "King" cotton. In contrast, the industrial North was driven by a manufacturing based economy. This diversity helped fan the flames of secession and self rule in the Southern states with South Carolina taking the lead.

The South's fate was sealed with the election of Abraham Lincoln who opposed the expansion of slavery. On December 20, 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede. Ten others soon followed, forming the Confederate States of America. With the Union dissolved, Civil War was inevitable.

Graphic Description:
Slaves at work on Pope's Plantation near Hilton Head, South Carolina
    Label:
    On the eve of the Civil War, one of every seven Americans belonged to another American. Approximately four million men, women and children were slaves. The majority worked the fields of the Deep South tying the region's economy to slavery.

Graphic Description:
Cover of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe
    Label:
    Harriet Beecher Stowe's portrayal of slavery's cruelty in Uncle Tom's Cabin deeply moved readers. Published in 1852, it became such a powerful antislavery weapon that within three years some thirty southern novels had been written seeking to refute its charges.

Graphic Description;
Palmetto flag

Quote:
"…the union now subsisting between South Carolina and other states, under the name of 'The United States of America,' is hereby dissolved."

South Carolina Ordinance of Secession
December 20, 1860

Graphic Description:
Meeting of the Southern Seceders from the Democratic Convention at St. Andrew's Hall, Charleston, April 30, 1860

Label:
In April of 1860, a presidential election year, the Democratic Party held its national meeting in Charleston. The issue of slavery split the convention. Delegates from South Carolina and seven other Southern states walked out.

Graphic Description:
Political poster for Abraham Lincoln's presidency bid

Label:
Abraham Lincoln became the Republican Party's nominee for president and won the national election in November, 1860. South Carolina's legislature responded by calling a convention to consider a secession ordinance.

Graphic Description:
South Carolina Secession Convention, December, 1860

Label:
Following Abraham Lincoln's election, and after decades of sectional conflict, South Carolina voted unanimously in convention to secede from the Union. When the Ordinance of Secession was signed on December 20, 1860, wild excitement swept the streets of Charleston.

Graphic Description:
Announcement in the Charleston *Mercury* declaring the "The Union is Dissolved!"

Graphic Description:
Map of Secession

Label:
Within seven weeks of South Carolina's secession, six other states – Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas – followed suit. In Montgomery, Alabama, in February of 1861, a provisional government called the Confederate States of America was formed with Jefferson Davis of Mississippi elected as President. Four other states – Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina – would also join the Confederacy after the opening shots of the Civil War at Fort Sumter.

Graphic Description:
Portrait of Jefferson and Varina Davis

Label:
On the afternoon of February 10, 1861, former Senator Jefferson Davis and his wife, Varina, received word that he had been elected President of the Provisional Government of the Confederate States of America. "Reading that telegram," Mrs. Davis remembered,

"he looked so grieved that I feared some evil had befallen our family. After a few minutes, he told me [what it contained], as a man might speak of a sentence of death."

Graphic Description:
Jefferson Davis being sworn in on the steps of the Alabama state capitol at Montgomery, February 18, 1861
Label:
Many thoughts swirled through Jefferson Davis's head as he was sworn in as President of the Confederacy on the steps of the Alabama state capitol at Montgomery on February 18, 1861. "Upon my… head were showered smiles, plaudits and flowers," he remembered, "but beyond them I saw troubles innumerable."

Graphic Description:
Portrait of Abraham Lincoln by Matthew Brady, February 27, 1860
Label:
In 1858, two years before being elected President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln made a prophetic speech. He stated, "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the house to fall. But I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other."

Graphic Description:
Abraham Lincoln's inauguration on the steps of the U.S. Capitol, March 4, 1861
Label:
A crowd gathered in front of the unfinished Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. to hear Lincoln's first inaugural address on March 4, 1861. "Plainly, the central idea of secession is the essence of anarchy," he states, "A majority, held in restraint by constitutional checks, and limitations… is the only true sovereign of a free people."

Graphic Description:
Lithograph entitles "The Eagle's Nest," published by E.B. and E.C. Kellog in 1861
Label:
The rift between the Confederate states and those loyal to the Union was depicted in this 1861 political cartoon. South Carolina, the first state to secede, is likened to a serpent rising to strike the mighty eagle of the United States.

Section V
Fort Sumter Becomes a Powder Keg
The Stage is Set for Conflict

South Carolina's secession caused a crisis. Federal troops manned forts here, angering many Carolinians who believed that state should control its own military installations. At Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island, Major Robert Anderson commanded a post to protect the U.S. Government's interests.

Six days after South Carolina seceded, Anderson transferred his command to Fort Sumter. The new masonry fort at the entrance to Charleston Harbor was more defensible than the older Fort Moultrie. More importantly, whoever controlled Sumter controlled access to Charleston – the South's most important seaport.

Charlestonians viewed Anderson's move as an act of aggression. In retaliation, South Carolina claimed Fort Moultrie and seized control of other Federal installations in the area. In March, 1861, the Confederacy sent General P.G.T. Beauregard to take control of military operation is and around Charleston Harbor. He immediately demanded Major Anderson's surrender but was refused. Fort Sumter became a powder keg ready to explode. Who would fire the first shot?

Graphic Description:
Map of Charleston Harbor for visitor orientation to location of sites significant to the exhibit storyline

Graphic Description:
View of wartime Charleston looking toward Fort Sumter
>
> Label:
> The establishment of the new government posed an immediate problem between North and South. What was to be done about Federal property in the Confederate States of America and, more specifically, about Federal forts occupying island in Charleston Harbor?

Graphic Description:
Robert Anderson with his wife and child
>
> Label:
> On November 15, 1860, Major Robert Anderson was posted to Charleston to take command of the Federal troops stationed there. An experienced and competent officer, his background should have been reassuring to South Carolinians. As a Kentuckian he qualified as a "Southerner." He had owned slaves and his wife came from an aristocratic Georgia family.

Graphic Description:
Fort Sumter as seen from the rear at low water
>
> Label:
> When Anderson decided that the Government's post at Fort Moultrie was vulnerable to land attack, he moved his garrison to the still unfinished but more defensible Fort Sumter.

Graphic Description:
Entry of Major Anderson's command into Fort Sumter
>
> Label:
> Under cover of darkness on December 26, 1860, Major Anderson and his troops slipped out of Fort Moultrie and crossed the Harbor to Fort Sumter. Several schooners carrying food, munitions, medical supplies, and 45 army wives and children followed the soldiers.

Graphic Description:
Smoke drifts over Fort Moultrie as bun carriages burn
>
> Label:
> As Major Anderson and the Federal garrison crossed Charleston Harbor for Sumter, heavy smoke drifted ominously over Fort Moultrie. Before abandoning the fort, Federal troops had spiked the cannon and set fire to the gun carriages to prevent the Confederates from using the ordnance.

Graphic Description:
Castle Pinckney occupied by South Carolina troops on December 27, 1860

Label:
In retaliation for taking of Fort Sumter, South Carolina troops were ordered by the governor to take Castle Pinckney – one of several Federal forts in and around Charleston Harbor. On December 27, 1860, the militia secured Castle Pinckney, allowing the Union occupants to leave without bloodshed.

Graphic Description:
A volunteer unit in formation inside Fort Moultrie after its occupation by South Carolina troops on December 27, 1860
Label:
Citizen soldiers, or volunteers, were the only substantial body of organized troops available to South Carolina when the state seceded. On December 27, 1860, Palmetto State troops took over Fort Moultrie making it a Confederate stronghold.

Graphic Description:
South Carolina volunteer troops trying out captured arms at the Arsenal
Label:
Having taken control of Federal installations at Castle Pinckney and Fort Moultrie, South Carolina troops also captured the United States Arsenal at Charleston on December 30, 1860. After the bloodless coup, Carolina volunteers relished trying out the captured arms.

Graphic Description:
Militia units drill at the Old Citadel
Label:
With the South inflamed over the Federal occupation of Fort Sumter, South Carolina militia units drilled on the parade grounds of the Citadel – a military college in Charleston.

Graphic Description:
Firing on the *Star of the West* from the South Carolina battery on Morris Island, January 10, 1861
Label:
When Federal forces occupied Fort Sumter in December of 1860, they had enough provisions to last four months. In January, a Federal relief ship left New York with supplies for the fort. When the *Star of the West* appeared at the entrance to Charleston Harbor, Citadel cadets opened fire. The unarmed ship turned back without reaching Fort Sumter.

Graphic Description:
Steamship *Marion* on the way to New York carrying the wives and children of the garrison at Fort Sumter
Label:
The presence of women and children in Fort Sumter presented a serious problem. Their lives would be endangered if the fort was fired upon, and there was a dwindling food supply. Major Anderson made the decision to send them to New York to safety. They were taken first to Charleston and then boarded a steamer for New York. As they passed Fort Sumter on February 3, 1861, the troops "displayed much feeling; for they thought… they might not meet them again for a long period, if ever."

Graphic Description:
Photo of Brig. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard in Confederate uniform
Label:

Brigadier General P.G.T. Beauregard of Louisiana took command of the military activities at Charleston for the newly established Confederate States of America on March 3, 1861. Ironically, Major Robert Anderson, commander of the Federal forces in Charleston, had been his artillery instructor at West Point. Teacher and student were now on opposing sides of an impending war.

Graphic Description:
Confederate preparations at Cummings Point for an attack on Fort Sumter
Label:
After his arrival in Charleston, General Beauregard realized the South Carolinians were eager, but they were amateurs at war. He set about organizing the Palmetto State's forces and implementing a plan to make Fort Sumter the center of a "ring of fire." The tempo of operations quickly began to change in Charleston Harbor.

Graphic Description:
The Floating Battery being manned by Confederate troops
Label:
The idea of a "floating battery" as a new weapon intrigued the South Carolina forces. When General Beauregard reached Charleston, he found a barn-like barge being erected. Based on the concept of an armored warship, this "floating battery" would not actually need to float. When placed in a cove on Sullivan's Island its guns would be aimed at a target that was not going to move – Fort Sumter.

Graphic Description:
A Confederate mortar battery on Morris Island
Label:
Under Beauregard's direction, Charleston Harbor teemed with activity. The Carolinians listened to him with respect and confidence, and followed his plan to surround Fort Sumter with a ring of batteries. Additional guns were dispersed along the shores of Morris and Sullivan's Islands.

Graphic Description:
1861 map of Charleston Harbor showing Fort Sumter and Confederate fortifications/batteries.
Label:
As Beauregard energized the South Carolina troops, Federal officers at Fort Sumter anxiously watched through spyglasses. They kept a tense and lonely vigil as enemy batteries appeared around the Harbor. By early April of 1861, the Southern fortifications bearing on Sumter were considerable.

Quote:
"…the Confederate States can no longer delay assuming actual possession of a fortification commanding one of their harbors…"

P.G.T. Beauregard (signature)
P.G.T. Beauregard
Brigadier General, C.S.A.
April 11, 1861

Graphic Description:
P.G.T. Beauregard's signature

Artifact Description:

Major Robert Anderson's Traveling Desk
        Label:
        Major Anderson's traveling desk

Artifact Description:
U.S. Army regulation hat
        Label:
        U.S. Army regulation hat worn by enlisted men of the heavy artillery, 1860

Artifact Description:
Belt buckle
        Label:
        South Carolina belt buckle

Artifact Description:
Ordnance Manual, 1861
        Label:
        United States Army manuals like this one were used by South Carolinians as preparations
        were made for the bombardment of Fort Sumter. Secession did not negate the vital
        information these publications contained as the South readied her defenses.

Artifact Description:
Book, *Rifles and Rifle Practice*
        Label:
        Lieutenant William C. Preston, 1st South Carolina Artillery, used this 1859 copy of Rifles
        and Rifle Practice to train the Southern volunteers in the use of infantry weapons. Preston
        later commanded a section of Fort Moultrie's guns that bombarded Sumter.

Section VI

Confederates Fire on Sumter
First Shots of the Civil War
April 12, 1861

By April of 1861, Major Robert Anderson found it impossible to survey Charleston Harbor
without feeling apprehensive. Southern secessionists surrounded Fort Sumter with a "circle of
fire." The "enemy" was expected to attack at any time.

To avoid war, the confederate Government ordered General P.G.T. Beauregard to demand the
evacuation of Fort Sumter and if refused, to "reduce it." His aides visited the fort on April 11
under a flag of truce and presented Anderson with the ultimatum, but without success. After
midnight, Beauregard's aides confronted Anderson again and received the same negative reply.

At 4:30 a.m. on April 12, Confederate Captain George S. James was ordered to fire the first shot
of the Civil War. Fired from Fort Johnson on James Island, this historic shell burst over Fort
Sumter and signaled the confederate batteries in Charleston Harbor to commence an assault on
the fort. At daybreak, Union forces opened fire in response. Charlestonians watched as the
bombardment of the fort continued for 34 hours.

Graphic Description:

Map of Charleston Harbor for visitor orientation to location of sites significant to the exhibit storyline.

Graphic Description:
Portrait of Captain Stephen D. Lee
    Label:
    Captain Stephen D. Lee, C.S.A.

Graphic Description:
Portrait of Colonel James Chesnut
    Label:
    Colonel James Chesnut, C.S.A.
    Group Label:
    Two South Carolinians, Captain Stephen D. Lee and Colonel James Chesnut, were among General Beauregard's staff who delivered Beauregard's final demand to Major Anderson prior to the bombardment of Fort Sumter.

Quote:
"I am ordered by the Government of the Confederate States to demand the evacuation of Fort Sumter. My aids, Colonel Chestnut and Captain Lee… will, for a reasonable time, await your answer."

Brig. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard

Graphic Description:
Complimentary closing and signature from Beauregard's letter delivered by Lee and Chesnut to Anderson requesting that he evacuate Fort Sumter, April 12, 1861.

Graphic Description:
The Ironclad Battery on Cumming's Point
    Label:
    The signal shell fired from Fort Johnson alerted Confederate batteries ringing Charleston Harbor to begin firing on Sumter. Shots from the Ironclad Battery at Cumming's Point on Morris Island (seen here) were among the first to strike the fort.

Graphic Description:
Portrait of Edmund Ruffin
    Label:
    Edmund Ruffin, a secessionist from Virginia, has long been credited with firing the first shot against Fort Sumter. The honor actually belongs to Captain George S. James who ordered the signal shell fired from Fort Johnson. Ruffin, however, did fire the first shot from the Ironclad Battery on Cumming's Point.

Graphic Description:
Bombardment of Fort Sumter as sketched from Morris Island
    Label:
    Following the firing of the signal shell, Charleston Harbor came alive as Confederate guns – 30 cannons and 17 mortars – began pounding the fort. An artist's sketch depicts the bombardment of Sumter as seen from Morris Island.

Graphic Description:
Scene on the floating battery in Charleston during the bombardment of Fort Sumter

Label:
The floating Battery on Sullivan's Island (seen below) and the Ironclad Battery on Cumming's Point (seen above) were the first to receive concentrated fire when the Federal forces responded to the Confederate assault shortly after daybreak on April 12.

Graphic Description:
Military portrait of Abner Doubleday
Label:
Captain Abner Doubleday, U.S.A.
As Major Anderson's second-in-command, Captain Abner Doubleday was asked to fire the first Union shot of the war. The New Yorker gladly accepted this serious responsibility because he believed the war was "…a contest,… as [to] whether virtue or vice should rule" in America.

Graphic Description:
Doubleday prepares to fire first gun shot from Fort Sumter
Label:
Having waited until shortly before 7 a.m. for the advantage of daylight, Captain Doubleday aimed a 32-pounder at the Ironclad Battery on Cumming's Point, then stepped back and yelled "Fire!" This first Union shot bounced off the slanting roof of the Confederate battery with no apparent effect.

Graphic Description:
Currier and Ives lithograph of the Bombardment of Fort Sumter
Label:
The bombardment of Sumter lasted 34 hours with more than 3,000 shells hurled at the fort. An eyewitness recorded the events of the Confederate assault. "Showers of balls from 10-inch columbiads and 42-pounders, and shells from [10-] inch mortars poured into the fort in one incessant stream…"

Graphic Description:
People on house tops in Charleston watching the bombardment of Fort Sumter
Label:
Thousands of Charlestonians – men, women and children – crowded rooftops and the city wharves to watch the bombardment of Sumter. There were "prayers from the women and imprecations from the men; and then a shell would light up the scene."

Graphic Description:
Federal reinforcements on way to help Major Anderson at Fort Sumter
Label:
Federal supply ships, unable to provide Major Anderson and his garrison with reinforcements, waited anxiously outside the harbor.

Graphic Description:
Guard boats prevent reinforcements being sent to Major Anderson at Fort Sumter the night of April 12, 1861.
Label:
On the night of April 12, Confederate boatmen checked attempts by a Federal supply fleet to reinforce the Union garrison at Fort Sumter.

Quote:

"[The opening shot of the Civil War]… was fired from a ten inch mortar at 4:30a.m., April 12, 1861. Captain James was a skillful officer and the firing of the shell was a success. It burst immediately over the fort… The firing of the mortar woke the echoes from every nook and corner of the harbor,… that shot was a sound of alarm that brought every soldier in the harbor to his feet, and every man, woman and child in the city of Charleston from their beds. A thrill went through the whole city. It was felt that the Rubicon was passed…"

> S.D. Lee (signature)
> Stephen D. Lee
> Aide-de-camp to General Beauregard, C.S.A.

Graphic Description:
S.D. Lee signature

Artifact Description:
Captain George S. James' sword and sheath
> Label:
> Sword of Captain George S. James, C.S.A.
> Captain George S. James was wearing this sword when he ordered the first shot of the Civil War to be fired at 4:30 a.m. on April 12, 1861

Diorama Description:
Confederate soldiers firing first shot of Civil War at Fort Sumter
> Label:
> On the morning of April 12, 1861, Confederate soldiers at Fort Johnson fired the first shot at Fort Sumter.

Section VII:

A Surrender at Sumter
Confederate Victors Claim the Fort
April 14, 1861

As a hurricane of shot and shell fell on Fort Sumter, the Federal garrison grew weary. Even though the federals fired carefully at the many Confederate targets scattered around the Harbor, Anderson's limited munitions quickly dwindled. Food was also critically low.

To add to the garrison's woes, the barracks caught fire three times on the first day of fighting. Then on April 13, Confederate "hot shot" (solid cannonballs heated red hot) set fire to the officers' quarters and spread, endangering the powder magazines. By noon the fort was almost uninhabitable. Major Anderson realized there was no point in subjecting his hungry, exhausted and half-suffocated men to further pounding. Consequently, General Beauregard was successful in negotiating Anderson's official surrender.

On April 14, 1861, Major Anderson and the Federal garrison evacuated Fort Sumter with the full honors of war. The Southerners wasted no time in claiming the fort for the Confederacy.

Graphic Description:
The interior of Fort Sumter during the bombardment
> Label:
> To prevent unnecessary casualties, Major Anderson stationed his men in the lower casemates rather than atop the fort where large guns were in exposed positions. The solid

shot hurled from the smaller guns, however, did little damage to the "enemy." At the time of Anderson's surrender, no one had been seriously injured on either side.

Quote:
"The roaring and crackling of the flames, the dense masses of whirling smoke, the bursting of the enemy's shells, and our own which were exploding in the burning rooms… made the fort a pandemonium."

<div style="text-align: right">

Abner Doubleday (signature)
Abner Doubleday
Captain, U.S.A.

</div>

Graphic Description:
Captain Abner Doubleday's signature

Graphic Description:
Portrait of Confederate Col. Louis T. Wigfall
　　　　Label:
　　　　Colonel Louis T. Wigfall, C.S.A

Graphic Description:
Confederate Col. Wigfall and U.S. Maj. Anderson discussing the terms of surrender of Fort Sumter
　　　　Label:
　　　　In an attempt to stop the firing on Fort Sumter, Confederate Colonel Louis T. Wigfall rowed out to meet with Major Robert Anderson on April 13. Acting on his own initiative, he demanded and received a surrender. Wigfall's action, however, was unauthorized. Later that same day, General Beauregard officially offered Anderson generous surrender terms. He could evacuate the fort with his garrison taking small arms and all private and personal property. In addition, Anderson could salute the United States flag as it was being lowered and take it with him on his journey North.

Graphic Description:
Portrait of U.S. Major Robert Anderson
　　　　Label:
　　　　Major Robert Anderson, U.S.A.

Quote:
"Having defended Fort Sumter for 34 hours… I accepted the terms of evacuation… and marched out of the fort on Sunday, the 14th…"

<div style="text-align: right">

Robert Anderson (signature)
Robert Anderson
Major, 1st Artillery, U.S.A.

</div>

Graphic Description:
Major Robert Anderson's signature

Graphic Description:
New York Times (April 15, 1861) headline heralding the surrender of Fort Sumter.
　　　　Label:
　　　　On Sunday, April 14, 1861, Major Anderson and his garrison marched out of Fort Sumter with drums beating and colors flying. A Confederate boat waited to take them to join the

Federal fleet outside Charleston Harbor. As they passed Cumming's Point, soldiers at the Confederate battery lined the beach, heads uncovered, in silent tribute to Sumter's defenders. Neither side knew what the future would hold. In New York the April 15 edition of the *Times* newspaper proclaimed Fort Sumter's fall and heralded Major Anderson's impending arrival.

Graphic Description:
View of Fort Sumter (sally port) on April 14, 1861 after the evacuation of Maj. Anderson's troops
    Label:
    Fort Sumter sally port after the Bombardment.

Graphic Description:
Interior face of Gorge showing officers' quarters and gateway after the April 1861 bombardment of Fort Sumter.
    Label:
    View of interior gorge wall after the Bombardment

Graphic Description:
Confederates in Sumter the day after Anderson left – sitting on the terre plein of the Gorge
    Label:
    The new "tenants" of Fort Sumter, as well as Southern dignitaries and curiosity seekers, were anxious to inspect the fort after the Federal garrison's evacuation on April 14, 1861. Some enjoyed having their photograph taken inside the heavily damaged structure now in Confederate hands.

Graphic Description:
Photograph of Confederate flag flying inside Fort Sumter on April 15, 1861 – the day following Maj. Anderson's surrender.
    Label:
    The Confederates began at once to clean up the debris of battle and to strengthen the fort's defenses. It was a proud moment for the southerners when the first official flag of the Confederacy – the *Stars and Bars* – was run up the flagstaff, announcing to all that the Confederates were now in possession of Fort Sumter. During the next four years the fort would be pounded into rubble by Union forces but it would never again be surrendered.

Graphic Description:
Detail from photograph of Confederate flag flying inside Fort Sumter on April 15, 1861

Artifact Group Text:
When Major Robert Anderson and his U.S. troops evacuated Fort Sumter on April 14, 1861, they took whatever they could. However, these artifacts, found in a 1959 excavation, show that a few items were left behind.
    Artifact Description:
    Two Federal uniform buttons
        Label:
        Federal Uniform Buttons

    Artifact Description:
    U.S. Belt plate
        Label:

U.S. Belt Plate

Artifact Description:
Musket and cartridge pouch
    Label:
    A Springfield model 1842 musket, caliber .69, made in 1854. Enlisted men of the heavy artillery were armed with muskets.

Artifact Description:
U.S. cartridge box plate
    Label:
    U.S. Cartridge Box Plate

Artifact Description:
Minie ball
    Label:
    .69 Minie Ball

Artifact Description:
Gunner's level
    Label:
    Gunner's Level

Artifact Description:
Gunner's pincers
    Label:
    Gunner's Pincers

Artifact Group Text:
The significance of Fort Sumter's surrender by Federal forces on April 13, 1861, and its evacuation the following day, was instantly recognized around the world. In the days and years to come, artwork, publications and souvenirs relating to the fort captured the public's attention.
    Artifact Description:
    Memorial Book
        Label:
        One of Fort Sumter's defenders published this memorial book in 1861 to provide the nation with a "correct" version of the Sumter story.

    Artifact Description:
    Flagstaff splinters
        Label:
        Wooden flagstaff splinters and pieces of the sacred Fort Sumter flag were some of the more popular souvenirs collected by soldiers and civilians alike.

    Artifact Description:
    Book and Sketch
        Label:
        Abner Doubleday, famous for ordering the first shot to be fired from Sumter, published his Reminiscences of Forts Sumter and Moultrie in 1876. It featured pieces of the Fort Sumter flag and flagstaff on the front cover.

This presentation copy was owned by Theodore R. Davis, who traveled to Charleston in 1861 to sketch the historic events. Davis' sketch (shown here with Doubleday's book) shows the fort two days after Anderson's surrender.

Artifact Description:
Medal
> Label:
> Non-commissioned Officer's Medal, part of a series presented by the New York State Chamber of Commerce to the first defenders of Fort Sumter.

Flag Display (Federal Battle Flag)

The Stars and Stripes
Fort Sumter's Battle Flag

This 10-foot by 20-foot tattered storm flag flew over Fort Sumter during the bombardment of April 12-13, 1861. On the second day a Confederate projectile shattered the flagstaff causing members of the Federal garrison to rush onto the parade ground, amid exploding shells and burning timbers, to retrieve the fallen flag. They carried it to the ramparts where it was hastily nailed to a wooden pole and re-raised. The tiny nail holes are still visible along the flag's left border.

Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard permitted Major Anderson to take this flag with him when the Federal forces evacuated Fort Sumter on April 14, 1861. It and the fort's garrison flag were taken to New York City and displayed in a patriotic demonstration in Union Square. Both flags remained in the Anderson family until 1905 when they were presented to the War Department. They were transferred to the National Park Service in 1954.

Graphic Description:
Re-raising the Fort Sumter Battle Flag
> Label:
> An artist's rendering of the re-raising of the flag

Artifact Description:
The Fort Sumter Battle Flag

Flag Display (Palmetto Flag)

The Palmetto Guard Flag
First Confederate Flag Over Sumter

This flag of the Palmetto Guard, a Charleston militia unit, was the first Confederate banner displayed at Fort Sumter. The Guard entered the fort on April 14, 1861, following the evacuation of the defeated Federal garrison. Private John Styles Bird, Jr. placed the banner on the parapet facing Charleston. Later that day, the first official flag of the Confederacy, The *Stars and Bars*, was raised at the fort.

Graphic Description:
Portrait of John Styles Bird, Jr. in Confederate uniform
> Label:
> John Styles Bird, Jr. of the Palmetto Guard

Artifact Description:
First Flag raised over Sumter by Confederate forces.

Section VIII

No Turning Back
Civil War Divides the Nation

On April 15, 1861, following the evacuation of Fort Sumter, President Abraham Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 volunteers to put down the Southern rebellion. His call resulted in Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Arkansas joining the Confederacy, with Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri threatening to do likewise.

The vast majority of Southerners rallied behind the Confederacy, confident of victory. They believed the showdown at Sumter had been justified by the outcome. The North, however, was outraged. Thousands of men answered Lincoln's call. Crowds cheered as they marched off to do battle for the Union.

By April 19, President Lincoln ordered a blockade of the Confederacy's coast. This would prevent the South from trading agricultural products for war materials in foreign markets. Civil War divided the nation at last. There would be no turning back for either side.

Graphic Description:
Symbolic image entitled "Uprising at the North"

Graphic Description:
Portrait of Abraham Lincoln, ca. 1861

Quote:
"The last ray of hope for preserving the Union peaceable expired at the assault upon Fort Sumter…"

> A. Lincoln (signature)
> Abraham Lincoln
> President
> United States of America

Graphic Description:
Abraham Lincoln's Signature

Graphic Description:
A union encampment
        Label:
        The response to Lincoln's call for volunteers to fight the Confederates was instantaneous and heartening. Whole towns signed up. The time had come for action. Union encampments soon dotted the Northern landscape.

Graphic Description:
Portrait of Jefferson Davis
        Label:
        Jefferson Davis

Quote:
"…Fort Sumter, where was first given to the breeze the flag of the Confederacy…"

<div align="right">
Jefferson Davis (signature)
Jefferson Davis
President
Confederate States of America
</div>

Graphic Description:
Jefferson Davis' signature

Graphic Description:
Sumter Light Guards, Company K, 4th Regiment – April 1861

> Label:
> The Confederates were not disheartened by the Union's mustering of volunteer militiamen. Regiments like the Sumter Light Guards proudly prepared for the challenge ahead. With great confidence, Vice President Alexander Stephens summarized the South's position: "Lincoln may bring his 75,000 troops against us…[but] we can call out a million of peoples if need be, and when they are cut down we can call another, and still another."

Section IX

Fort Sumter Becomes a Symbol
Southern Resistance/Northern Determination

Following the eruption of civil war, Fort Sumter became a symbol to both North and South. The Confederacy regarded it as an emblem of the South's independence and resolved to resist Northern domination. The Union, smarting from an early defeat and the surrender of the fort, viewed Sumter as the Confederacy itself. Consequently, the North became determined to retake it; the Confederacy, to hold it at any cost.

With Fort Sumter in Confederate hands, the port of Charleston became an irritating loophole in the Federal naval blockage of the Atlantic coast. As late as January 1863, vessels plied to and from and the Bahamas bringing needed war supplies in exchange for cotton. At Sumter, Southern forces worked feverishly to repair the fort and strengthen it against Union attack. It would only be a matter of time before Northern forces would lay siege to Sumter and try to gain control of Charleston.

Graphic Description:
Panoramic view of Fort Sumter after the first bombardment

Graphic Description:
Building materials being taken into Fort Sumter through the sally port to make repairs.

> Label:
> From 1861 to 1865, under Confederate control, Fort Sumter would play a key role in keeping Charleston Harbor open to blockade runners and in preventing capture of the city.

Quote:

"The loss of Charleston would cut us off from… the rest of the world, and close the only channel through which we can expect to get supplies from abroad. Now almost our only independence."

R.E. Lee (Signature)
Robert E. Lee
General, C.S.A.
May 29, 1862

Graphic Description:
     Robert E. Lee's signature

Graphic Description:
Map showing Fort Sumter and the Confederate batteries erected against it in 1861

Graphic Description:
Bird's Eye View of the City of Charleston

Graphic Description:
Clearing debris around a shattered flagstaff after the Confederate bombardment of Fort Sumter.

Graphic Description:
Clearing debris and repairing Fort Sumter following the evacuation of the Union forces.
     Label:
     Confederates readied Fort Sumter to join the remaining batteries surrounding the Harbor, completing Charleston's defenses.

Section X

Federal Forces Lay Siege to Charleston
Attack by the Ironclad Fleet

On November 7, 1861, Union forces led by Captain Samuel F. DuPont retaliated for the loss of Fort Sumter by capturing Confederate forts guarding Port Royal Sound near Hilton Head Island. There U.S. troops established a vital stronghold for land and sea siege operations against Charleston. Land forces attempted to capture the city at the Battle of Secessionville on James Island on June 16, 1862, but failed. Naval forces formed the next line of attack.

Nine Federal ironclads, led by then Rear Admiral DuPont, began steaming single-file toward Fort Sumter on April 7, 1863. When within range, Fort Moultrie opened fire on the lead ironclad Weehawken. Sumter and all the Confederate guns on Sullivan's Island and Cumming's Point followed suit as these peculiar naval vessels returned fire. This proved to be too much for the slow and unwieldy ironclads. Five were seriously disabled and one, the Keokuk, sank. The North was stunned by DuPont's failure.

Graphic Description:
Map of Charleston Harbor for visitor orientation to location of sites significant to the exhibit storyline.

Graphic Description:
Bombardment of Port Royal, November 7, 1861
     Label:

The Battle of Port Royal Sound secured a base for Union ships and soldiers to range freely up and down the Atlantic Coast for the duration of the war. Also, it forced the Confederates to reorganize their strategic thinking, leading them to rely on channel obstruction as the principal element of coastal defense.

Graphic Description:
Union troops attacking Fort Lamar at Secessionville, June 16, 1862
Label:
The Battle of Secessionville, or Fort Lamar, on James Island was one of the bloodiest local engagements of the Civil War. Almost 900 men were killed, wounded or captured in the space of a few hours as the Confederates kept Union land forces from advancing to take Charleston.

Graphic Description:
Rear Admiral Samuel F. DuPont with Naval Officers
Label:
Rear Admiral Samuel F. DuPont (foreground) was credited by his contemporaries as having directed "the best… men and ships ever placed under the command of any officer on this continent…" His attempt to take Fort Sumter by ironclad fleet proved, however, to be a valiant but fruitless effort.

Quote:
"I attempted to take the bull by the horns, but he was too much for us…"
S.F. DuPont (signature)
Samuel F. DuPont
Rear Admiral, U.S.N.
April 8, 1863

Graphic Description:
S.F. DuPont's signature

Graphic Description:
Panoramic view of Charleston Harbor showing the advance of ironclads on Aril 7, 1863
Label:
Armed with 32 heavy-caliber guns, nine Federal ironclads began steaming toward Fort Sumter to reduce it and shell Charleston into submission. This unique naval fleet included the double-turreted *Keokuk* (a), single-turreted *Nahant* (b), *Nantucket* (c), *Catskill* (d), *Patapsco* (f), *Montauk* (g), *Passaic* (h) and *Weehawken* (k); and Rear Admiral DuPont's flagship *New Ironsides* (e). Key Confederate defenses which repelled the attack of the ironclads included: Battery Wagner (2), Battery Gregg (3), Fort Sumter (6), Battery Bee (9), Fort Moultrie (10) and Battery Beauregard (12).

Graphic Description:
The Union Ironclad Fleet opening fire on Fort Sumter while Confederate land troops return fire.
Label:
Confederate land forces fired mightily on the Federal ironclad fleet as it opened fire on Fort Sumter. In the course of the 2½-hour fight, only one ironclad came within 900 yards of the fort.

Graphic Description:
Ironclads attacking Fort Sumter

Label:
In response to the 2,209 rounds of Confederate shot hurled against them, the Union ironclads were able to return only 154, with 34 rounds finding their target – Fort Sumter.

Graphic Description:
Portrait of Col. Alfred Rhett, C.S.A.
Label:
Colonel Alfred Rhett commanded Fort Sumter during the ironclad assault. Only five of more than 500 men defending the fort were injured in this confrontation with Rear Admiral DuPont's forces.

Graphic Description:
Ironclad *Weehawken* firing a parting shot on Fort Sumter
Label:
Fort Sumter remained strong and secure when the ironclad attack was over. The enemy rounds that hit the fort breached and loosened 25 feet of the right flank Parapet and pocked the walls elsewhere with craters up to 2½ feet deep. Here, the ironclad Weehawken is seen taking a parting shot at the seemingly invincible Sumter.

Model Description:
U.S.S Ironclad *Keokuk*
Label:
The U.S.S. Keokuk, hit by crossfire of 90 projectiles from Confederate guns on Fort Sumter and Sullivan's Island, sank off Morris Island on the morning of April 8, 1863. Later, the Southerners recovered her guns and mounted one on Fort Sumter.

Section XI

The Siege Continues
Assault on Morris Island

The defeat of the ironclads led Federal authorities to rethink their military strategy. They looked to a combined land and naval siege operation to take Morris Island and from there demolish Fort Sumter. Fort Wagner on Morris Island was the principal outpost of Fort Sumter and commanded the southern approaches to Charleston Harbor. Facing well entrenched Confederates, the Union Siege would incorporate newly organized African American regiments and require extreme courage by both defender and attacker.

In July of 1863, Union troops stormed ashore on the southern tip of the island. After two disastrous assaults on Fort Wagner, the earthen structure remained in Confederate hands. The Union assault on Fort Sumter continued with dozens of heavy rifled siege guns emplaced on Morris and Folly islands. Naval forces supported land-based artillery units. By September, Fort Wagner belonged to the Union.

Quote:
Plan of attack: "First. To make a descent upon and obtain possession of the south end of Morris Island… Second. To lay siege to and reduce Fort Wagner… Third… to demolish Fort Sumter…"
Q.A. Gillmore (signature)
Quincy A. Gillmore
Brigadier General, U.S.A.

Graphic Description:
Q.A. Gillmore's signature

Graphic Description:
Union troops storming ashore on Morris Island
> Label:
> On July 10, 1863, Federal assault columns pushed aside Confederate defenders on the southern tip of Morris Island. They were aided by Union artillery fire from Folly Island south of Charleston.

Graphic Description:
54th Massachusetts attack on Battery Wagner
> Label:
> Battery Wagner, a powerful Confederate sand fort, blocked the Union advance northward on Morris Island. Although an earlier assault had failed, Federal guns poured a "storm of shell and shot" upon Wagner on July 18, 1863. This was followed with an attack by some 6,000 troops. The 54th Massachusetts, an African American regiment, valiantly spearheaded the charge.

Graphic Description:
Fort Wagner after the assault of July 18, 1863
> Label:
> During the assaults against Fort Wagner, heavy losses were sustained by both sides. The 54th Massachusetts alone lost 42% of its strength. Even though their attack was repulsed, the African American soldiers won a permanent place for themselves in the United States Army and in the annals of history.

Graphic Description:
Portrait of Colonel Robert Shaw
> Label:
> Colonel Robert Shaw, a white officer of only 25 years of age, led the African American soldiers of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry in the fateful assault against Fort Wagner. Killed while crossing the parapet, Shaw was buried in a mass grave along with the fallen heroes of his command.

Graphic Description:
Portrait of Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren
> Label:
> John A. Dahlgren
> Rear Admiral, U.S.N.

Graphic Description:
U.S. Naval Fleet off South Carolina's shore

Graphic Description:
Sailors and Officers on board an armed ship
> Label:
> On July 6, 1863, Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren replaced Admiral DuPont as commander of the U.S. naval forces besieging Charleston. Under his leadership heavily armed ships and ironclad monitors supported land troops in pounding Fort Sumter into what the Federals mistakenly believed was a "shapeless and harmless mass of ruins."

Dahlgren's forces also joined in a devastating barrage on Fort Wagner, forcing the Confederates to evacuate and leave Morris Island in Union hands.

Graphic Description:
Military portrait of Brigadier General Quincy A. Gillmore standing in front of a tent with his horse.

Label:
Quincy A. Gillmore
Brigadier General, U.S.A.

Graphic Description:
Artillery unit on Morris Island

Label:
Between 1863-1864, Brigadier General Gillmore and Rear Admiral Dahlgren conducted a cooperative and sustained land and sea operation resulting in the capture of Morris Island, Fort Wagner and the virtual destruction of Fort Sumter.

Graphic Description:
300 Pounder Parrott Rifle at Fort Chatfield Morris Island

Label:
Under Brigadier General Gillmore's direction, heavy rifled guns like this 10" bore 300-pounder Parrott began firing on Fort Sumter and the city of Charleston in August of 1863. The new rifled cannon enabled shot to accurately reach targets at extraordinary distances with devastating results.

Graphic Description:
Map of the Siege Operations against the Defenses of Charleston Harbor, 1863

Label:
Federal reports of the "First Great Bombardment" of Fort Sumter indicated that it had been "practically demolished." This assessment proved premature. Over the next several months the Confederate garrison, supplemented by a force of 200 to 400 African American slaves, transformed the fort from "a shapeless pile of shattered walls and casemates… into a powerful earthwork…"

Graphic Description:
Photograph of the interior of Fort Sumter after bombardment from Morris Island.

Graphic Description:
Line engraving of the interior of Fort Sumter after bombardment from Morris Island

Label:
The damage caused to the interior of Fort Sumter during the "First Great Bombardment" is evident in this remarkable "action" photograph. Charleston photographer George S. Cook captured the scene just as a shell from the Federal ironclad *Weehawken* burst on the rubble-strewn parade ground. The line engraving provides clarification for this frozen moment in time.

Section XII

Confederates Defend the Ruin
The Siege Becomes a Stalemate

With a foothold on Morris Island, Federal forces were encouraged. Sustained firepower had given them a land base only three-quarters of a mile from Fort Sumter. The barrage of August 17 – September 9, 1863, had also reduced the fort, leaving the Confederates to defend a ruin.

Except for "minor" bombardments, Fort Sumter remained free of attack for almost two months. The Confederates worked to strengthen the fort, converting it into an earthwork and mounting additional guns. Learning of this, the Federals launched a second major assault on October 26. For 41 days and nights Sumter's garrison withstood more than 18,000 rounds of Union fire.

The onset of summer, 1864, brought a final sustained assault against Sumter. A major attack began on July 7 and when it ended 61 days later, on September 4, another 14,666 rounds had been hurled at the fort… and still the Confederates remained defiant. The siege had become a stalemate.

Graphic Description:
Oil pointing by C.W. Chapman of the Confederate flag flying over the ruins of Fort Sumter

Quote:
"Sumter is now a noble mass of ruins, over which still float our colors… Two hundred infantry garrison the ruins to defend them to [the] last extremity."

> P.G.T. Beauregard (signature)
> P.G.T. Beauregard
> General, C.S.A.
> September 6, 1863

Graphic Description:
P.G.T. Beauregard's signature

Graphic Description:
Union sailors and marines making an assault on Fort Sumter

> Label:
> On the night of September 8-9, 1863, a small boat attack became a dismal failure for the Federals. Four hundred soldiers and marines made an assault on Sumter. Aware of the mission, the Confederate garrison used musketry, hand grenades, bricks, masonry and almost anything at hand to crush the attack. They were aided by Fort Moultrie which, according to one account, "fired like the devil."

Graphic Description:
View of Fort Sumter after the Union bombardments of 1863

> Label:
> After converting the shattered brick fort into a strong earthwork, the Confederates replaced the artillery garrison with an infantry force.

Graphic Description:
Fort Sumter as viewed from the South-West Angle, December 9, 1963

> Label:
> Fort Sumter received extensive damage during the "Second Great Bombardment" of October 26 – December 6, 1863. To add to the garrison's woes, the small arms magazine exploded on December 11 killing 11 soldiers and wounding 41. Rising smoke announced the tragedy, causing Federal guns to open fire once again.

Graphic Description:
Interior view of South-East Angle of Fort Sumter, December 9, 1863
> Label:
> Repairs continued at Fort Sumter throughout the Union bombardments and during periods of brief respite. Most of this work was assigned to African American slaves.

Graphic Description:
Interior of Fort Sumter, circa 1865
> Label:
> Thousands of bags of sand were brought from the city by night to fill wicker baskets, or "gabions," used to shore up the fort's walls. Debris was added to debris, making Sumter stronger than ever. By September of 1864, Federal authorities realized the futility of continuing the assault on this Confederate bastion.

Graphic Description:
Tottering walls of Fort Sumter shored up.

Graphic Description:
Palmetto fortification on the channel side of Fort Sumter
> Label:
> Harkening back to the American Revolution when palmetto logs were used to defend
Fort Moultrie against the British, Confederate forces relied on the spongy wood to fortify the channel side of Fort Sumter.

Graphic Description:
Mountain Howitzer on Sumter's outer wall
> Label:
> The small caliber mountain howitzers were hidden by day and used under cover of darkness to defend against Union assault.

Artifact Group Text
Many reminders of the fort as well as soldier life have been found at Sumter. Most of the specimens displayed in this museum were uncovered within the fort walls.
> Artifact Description:
> Stone fragment with inscription "Killed at Fort Sumter October 31sr, 1863"
>> Label:
>> During the three major and eight minor bombardments of 1863-1865, Confederate casualties included 267 wounded and 52 dead.

> Artifact Description:
> Pistol fragment
>> Label:
>> Only a fragment remains of this revolver, the standard issue sidearm to officers.

Artifact Group Label:
The British-made Enfield rifle, valued for its range and accuracy, was used extensively by Confederate and Union soldiers during the Civil War. An Enfield rifle and ramrod are displayed here.
> Artifact Description:
> Enfield rifle

Artifact Description:
Portion of Enfield ramrod

Artifact Description:
Part of a hand grenade
> Label:
> Ketchum hand grenades, a Union invention, were used by both sides during the Civil War.

Artifact Group Label:
Tools such as the pickax and broadax were used by Fort Sumter's garrison to clear debris caused by Union bombardments. Day and night the Confederates worked to save the fort and strengthen it by converting it into a modern earthwork.
> Artifact Description:
> Pickax fragment

> Artifact Description:
> Broadax fragment

Artifact Group Label:
As Fort Sumter changed from a masonry structure to earthworks, the Confederates burrowed in. They were fairly safe in their cavernous quarters, but life apart from work was tedious and unhealthy. They slept and took their meager rations in the dark, dank environment; an occasional pipe helped break the monotony.
> Artifact Description:
> Pipe and pipe fragments

> Artifact Description:
> Spoon fragment

> Artifact Description:
> Bottle

> Artifact Description:
> Fused glass
> > Label:
> > The inexplicable explosion of the small arms magazine at Fort Sumter on December 11, 1863, created a fire so intense that glass fused.

Section XIII
The Stalemate Reaches An End
Federal Forces Re-Claim the Fort
April 14, 1865

The stalemate between Northern and Southern forces in Charleston Harbor came to an end in February of 1865 as Union General William Tecumseh Sherman marched north from Savannah through the interior of South Carolina. His arrival in Columbia on the 17th separated the small Confederate force remaining on the coast from the Southern army to the west. Cut off, Fort Sumter and other Confederate fortifications in the Harbor were quietly evacuated, but not surrendered.

After the Civil War ended on April 9, 1865, Robert Anderson, now a retired Major General, returned to Fort Sumter to raise again the U.S. flag he had lowered in defeat exactly four years before. On April 14 a large crowd stood to hear the ceremonies or watched from boats in the Harbor. Sumter was no longer the symbol of the Confederacy. It was now the symbol of the victorious Union. Ironically, the North's jubilation was cut short with the assassination of Abraham Lincoln that very evening in Washington, D.C.

Graphic Description:
Columbia, South Carolina after Sherman's troops marched through
> Label:
> The devastation wrought by Sherman's march north through South Carolina is readily apparent in this 1865 photograph of Columbia. As the capital of the first state to secede, it suffered greatly in the wake of the Union army.

Graphic Description:
Photo of Fort Sumter in ruins, circa February of 1865
> Label:
> During the long siege, Union batteries and ironclads hurled an estimated 3,500 tons of ammunition at Fort Sumter, but failed to capture it. With Sherman's troops in South Carolina and an end to the war in sight, the Confederate garrison left the fort during the night of February 17, 1865. Proudly, they chose to abandon Sumter rather than surrender it to the enemy.

Graphic Description:
Plan view drawing of Fort Sumter at the time of its capture, February 18, 1865

Graphic Description:
Section TU from diagrammatic drawing of Fort Sumter
> Label:
> At 9 o'clock on the morning of February 18, 1865, Federal forces took possession of Fort Sumter after fighting four years to get it back in Union hands. Drawings of the "captured" fort were prepared as an official record of Sumter's condition.

Graphic Description:
Charleston in ruins at the time of the Confederate surrender of Fort Sumter

Graphic Description:
Pinckney House in Charleston severely damaged by war.
> Label:
> When the Confederates evacuated Fort Sumter, Charleston, the "Cradle of Secession," was in ruins. Following a devastating accidental fire in December 1861, the bombardments of 1863 and 1864 smashed and burned much of what was left.

Quote:
"Ordered: First. That at the hour of noon, on the 14th day of April, 1865, brevet Major-General Anderson will raise and plant upon the ruins of Fort Sumter, in Charleston Harbor, the same United States flag which floated over the battlements of the fort during the rebel assault, and which was lowered and saluted by him and the small force of his command when the works were evacuated on the 14th day of April, 1861."
<div style="text-align:center">

Excerpt
General Order 41
</div>

Issued by General Q.A. Gillmore, U.S.A.

Graphic Description:
Federal squadron dressed with flags approaching Fort Sumter on the 4th anniversary of Major Robert Anderson's surrender, April 14, 1865
> Label:
> These photographs are among several taken by an unknown photographer who recorded the events of April 14, 1865, including the arrival of the *Diamond* carrying Major General Robert Anderson, General Quincy A. Gillmore, and clergyman and abolitionist Henry Ward Beecher.

Graphic Description:
Ceremony for the re-raising of the Federal Garrison flag over Fort Sumter, April 14, 1865
> Label:
> Five days after Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant, the United States flag was re-raised over Fort Sumter with fanfare and eloquent speeches.

Quote:
"We raise our fathers' banner… that it may heal all jealousies, unite all policies, inspire a new national life, compact our strength, purify our principles, enoble our national ambitions, and make this people great and strong…for the peace of the world…"
> Address of Henry Ward Beecher
> Fort Sumter
> April 14, 1865

Artifact Description:
Booklet cover: Programme "The Order of Exercises at the Re-Raising of the United States Flag on Fort Sumter, Charleston, S.C., April 14th, 1865; Booklet page: Order of exercises
> Label:
> This formal program was prepared outlining the order of events for the re-raising ceremony

Artifact Description:
Brick
> Label:
> Souvenirs of Fort Sumter were popular in 1865. Mementos included shot, shells, bricks and even bits of the flag. So hat we may continue to preserve Fort Sumter, please leave all bricks and other historic "souvenir" materials where you find them.

Section XIV

Fort Sumter After the Civil War
From Wartime Ruin to National Monument

It was 1870 before the United States began to clear the ruins of war from Fort Sumter. Ironically, Quincy A. Gillmore, whose Union gunners had inflicted most of the damage, directed the cleanup. Work progressed until 1876 when a shortage of funds forced suspension of activity.

Sumter stood largely neglected until 1898. A "fort keeper" oversaw what was mainly a dilapidated lighthouse station. Around the turn of the century, a massive naval buildup by world

powers prompted the modernization of the fort. Two 12-inch breech-loading rifled guns were installed in 1899. Their concrete emplacement, Battery Huger, still dominates the fort and one of the gun pits serves as the museum. In 1943, the outmoded guns were replaced with four 90-mm guns manned by the Coast Artillery.

Amphibious landings and air attacks used during World War II made static forts obsolete. Sumter was decommissioned in 1947 and transferred to the National Park Service to become a national monument on July 12, 1948.

Today, Fort Sumter National Monument preserves the site where the most profound chapter in American history began. More than 25 national park sites commemorate the events that followed.

Graphic Description
Fort Sumter in 1865, with men and a boat in foreground.
> Label:
> After the Civil War, Fort Sumter lay in ruin. Over the next 30 years, some effort was made to repair and modernize the fort, but inadequate Congressional funding halted the project before completion.

Graphic Description:
Battery Isaac Huger with 12-inch seacoast guns mounted
> Label:
> Battery Isaac Huger was constructed in 1899 in response to the Spanish-American War. Two 12-inch seacoast guns – one *en barbette* (placed on an open parapet) and the other disappearing – were mounted here. This emplacement was named for a South Carolinian who distinguished himself as a Major General in the American Revolution.

Graphic Description:
Fort Sumter in years prior to WWII
> Label:
> Made of steel reinforced concrete, Battery Huger was designed to withstand heavy bombardment from battleships off shore.

Group Text
After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, structures at Fort Sumter were camouflaged. In 1943 the big guns were removed and cut up for scrap. They were replaced by 90mm guns mounted on the dirt fill at each end of Battery Huger and were designed to shoot at rapidly moving vessels.
> Graphic Description:
> Big guns which were retired at Fort Sumter after Pearl Harbor

> Graphic Description:
> 90 mm guns mounted at each end of Battery Huger

Graphic Description:
Modern view of Fort Sumter with flags flying over it.
> Label:
> Fort Sumter was decommissioned in 1947 and assigned to the National Park Service in 1948.

Section XV

Uncovering the Past
The Excavation of Fort Sumter

Charged with preserving America's Civil War heritage, the National Park Service found itself in 1948 with a fortification mostly representative of late 19th- and early 20th-century coastal defense. Archaeologists' sought to uncover the remains of the original fort that had withstood almost constant bombardment between 1863 and 1865. These photographs provide a fascinating record of the excavation of one of America's most historic landmarks.

Graphic Description:
Excavation crew at Fort Sumter
> Label:
> 1949
> Safety of the crew being a primary concern, the first step in the excavation was to search for live artillery shells.

Graphic Description:
Excavating the left gorge angle
> Label:
> 1952
> Once work began, the first shovelfuls were removed from the left gorge angle. This work uncovered two 1870s gun mounts that were taken out the next year. Not the narrow gauge railroad that was constructed to remove the dirt fill.

Graphic Description:
Men removing dirt fill with shovels and wheelbarrows
> Label:
> 1959
> While some of the dirt was removed by machinery, a great deal was handled by men with shovels and wheelbarrows.

Graphic Description:
Excavating the left flank gun rooms and enlisted men's barracks.
> Label:
> 1955 The next step was to open the left flank gunrooms and enlisted men's barracks. The gunrooms in this area were used as a hospital during the Confederate occupation of Fort Sumter.

Graphic Description:
Reduction of the parade ground down to its original level
> Label:
> 1959
> After the gunrooms were opened and the area cleared, work began to lower the parade ground to its original level.

Graphic Description:
Excavating the ruins of the officer's quarters
> Label:
> 1956
> Starting again at the left gorge angle, the ruins of the officer's quarters were discovered.

Graphic Description:
Arched doorway of the powder magazine, a fireplace and marble window sills uncovered in the officers' quarters

Label:
1956
The arched doorway of the powder magazine can be seen in this photograph along with a fireplace and marble window sills in the once elaborate officers' quarters.

Graphic Description:
Laborer Abraham White pointed to fused musket barrels

Label:
1956
Fused musket barrels dating back to the disastrous 1863 explosion were uncovered in the powder magazine.

Graphic Description:
Detail of a fireplace facing showing herringbone pattern

Label:
1959
This detail of a fireplace facing also shows a herringbone pattern in the bricks in the hearth.

Graphic Description:
Projectiles uncovered lodged in the brick of the left face wall.

Label:
1959
With the removal of dirt fill from the left face wall, several projectiles were found embedded in the brick. Still visible today, these projectiles were fired from Union cannon on Morris Island.

Graphic Description:
10-inch mortar found during excavations

Label:
1959
One of the most interesting finds in this area of the fort was a 10-inch mortar, the same type of gun the Confederates used to fire the first shot of the Civil War into the fort.

Graphic Description:
Parrott rifles found when right face was uncovered

Label:
1959
The last section of the fort to be uncovered was the right face. Concrete retaining walls and tons of sand fill had to be removed from the gunrooms. Concealed beneath the fill and behind the walls were eleven 100-pounder Parrott rifled cannon. These guns had been placed in the fort during Gillmore's modernization efforts of the 1870s.

Graphic Description:
Fort Sumter today

Label:
The National Park Service's massive excavation of Fort Sumter was completed in time to celebrate the Centennial of the Battle of Fort Sumter on April 12, 1961.

Artifact Group Label:
During the excavation of Fort Sumter, numerous objects were unearthed that provide a glimpse of the soldier's life. Under the extreme conditions of war, the fort's defenders struggled to maintain a semblance of normalcy in their lives. Mundane objects like a toothbrush, a bottle, an ink container, a key and ceramic dinnerware became valued possessions for these ordinary men with an extraordinary purpose.

> Artifact Description:
> Toothbrush
>
> Artifact Description:
> Ink bottle
>
> Artifact Description:
> Bottle or flask
>
> Artifact Description
> Key
>
> Artifact Description
> Ceramic shards

Audiovisual Presentation

Sumter Through Time
The Bombardment of Sumter

Fort Sumter, symbol of Southern resistance throughout the Civil War, withstood three major and eight minor bombardments. The brick walls were pounded into rubble but the Confederates refused to surrender. By February 17, 1865, with circumstances indicating that the war might soon end, they chose to evacuate the fort, leaving the ruins to be reclaimed at long last by Union forces.
Group Label:
Fort Sumter Before and After the Civil War.
> Graphic Description:
> Fort Sumter before the Civil War as Painted by Seth Eastman
>
> Graphic Description:
> Fort Sumter after the Civil War.

Graphic Description:
100-pounder Parrotts aimed at Fort Sumter from Battery Stevens
> Label:
> Parrott rifles, like the 100-pounders seen here, were the mainstay of heavy cannon ordnance for the Union Army. They were used extensively to pound Fort Sumter into rubble.

Graphic Description:
Close-up detail of the ruins of Fort Sumter with overlay of information pertaining to the bombardments of the fort.

Timeline Data:

No. and Class of Bombardment	Dates	No. of Confederate Killed or Wounded	No. Rounds Fired (Approximate)
First Major	Aug 17-Sept 2, 1863	52	6,800
First Minor	Sept 28-Oct 3, 1863	3	570
Second Major	Oct 26-Dec 6, 1863	100 (Approximately)	18,680
Second Minor	Dec 11, 1863	52	220
Third Minor	Jan 28-31, 1864	2	580
Fourth Minor	March 15, 1864	5	140
Fifth Minor	April 28-May 4, 1864	1	510
Sixth Minor	May 13-17, 1864	6	1,140
Seventh Minor	May 30-June 5, 1864	1	320
Third Major	July 7-Sept 4, 1864	81	14,670
Eight Minor	Sept 6-18, 1864	6	570
	TOTAL (Approximate)	309	44,200

Section XVI:

Sumter Under Fire
Shells, Shot and Torpedoes

From the first shot fired at Fort Sumter to the last, the battle between North and South was a duel between the heaviest artillery both sides could muster. More than 43,000 shells, or 7 million pounds of metal, were hurled at Sumter. Land and sea forces used traditional smoothbore guns and new rifled weaponry to pound the fort.

Revolutionary advances in artillery were embodied in the new rifled cannon used extensively during the Civil War. By cutting a series of twisting grooves inside the gun's barrel, a spin could be imparted onto a projectile causing it to go farther, faster and with greater accuracy toward a target. The success of the new weaponry caused many smoothbores to be converted to rifled ordnance. More rifled cannon were used against Fort Sumter than against any other fort during the war.

In addition to the heavy artillery used by both sides, the Confederacy introduced the new medium of underwater warfare. Floating kegs of gunpowder, called torpedoes, were used to mine Charleston Harbor and for a time, semi-submersible torpedo boats inflicted great damage as they rammed explosives into the sides of Federal warships. When experiments involving the first submarine proved disastrous, the South abandoned the idea of a totally submerged war vessel.

Graphic Description:
10" Columbiad inside Fort Sumter (Wade Hampton and other prominent South Carolinians are viewing it.)
    Label:
    As soon as the Confederates took possession of Fort Sumter on April 15, 1861, they inspected its armaments. Shown here is one of several 10" smoothbore Columbiads that Federal forces had mounted as mortars against Charleston. However, they were unable to use the Columbiad because they lacked the necessary fuses.

Graphic Description:
24- and 32-pounders on the parapet of Fort Sumter after the evacuation of the Federal Garrison, April 14, 1861
Label:
Smoothbore weapons such as 24-, 32- and 42-pounders were used by both sides in the opening battle for Fort Sumter. These 32-pounders, mounted on the parapet by Major Anderson, are being inspected shortly after the Federal forces departed from the fort.

Graphic Description:
15" Rodman in use at Fort Moultrie
Label:
About the same time that rifled artillery was coming into use in the United States, another advance in smoothbore weaponry was taking place. Thomas Rodman developed a new casting process to strengthen the bore of the guns and reduce stresses at the time of firing by equalizing pressures along its length. The results of his labor were the Rodmans, superior guns of 8-, 10-, 15- and even 20-inch diameter. A 15-inch version is shown in this photograph.

Graphic Description:
Artillery emplacement
Label:
Artillery emplacements were typical during the 1863 bombardment of Fort Sumter. Federal land forces rammed and fired thousands of mortar shells at their immovable target in Charleston Harbor.

Graphic Description:
Five 10" Siege Mortar and two 80-pounder Whitworths ready for use by Federal forces at Battery Reynolds, Morris Island.
Label:
Morris Island's Battery Reynolds used 10" siege mortar to help cover Union land forces. These short barreled cannon could hurl projectiles at high angles. Rifled 80-pounder Whitworths (seen in the left background) helped cover Federal naval forces because their grooved barrels allowed them to shoot projectiles at greater distances with increased speed and accuracy.

Graphic Description:
100-pounders with piles of ammunition on Morris Island
Label:
The mainstay of Army heavy ordnance during the Civil War was the Parrott gun. This weapon was a cast iron rifle with wrought iron breech reinforcing. It came in various calibers, the larger being 100-, 200- and 300-pounders, and fired a cylindrical projectile. A 100-pounder Parrott is seen in this 1863 photograph of Battery Rosecrans on Morris Island. Parrotts were used extensively on the island as breaching batteries against Fort Sumter and Charleston.

Graphic Description:
300-pounder Parrott
Label:
Only three 300-pounder Parrotts were used in the war, and all were employed against Sumter. This huge Parrott rifle had a 10-inch diameter bore. It was damaged on the 27th round when a shell burst prematurely taking off several inches of the gun's muzzle. The

Federal forces chipped its ragged edges true and continued to fire another 371 shells before the weapon cracked and was declared useless. A 300-pounder Parrott can be seen today at Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island.

Graphic Description:
Mountain Howitzer mounted atop north wall of Fort Sumter
Label:
Even as Fort Sumter was being pounded into ruins during the bombardments of 1863-1865, mountain howitzers were placed atop what remained of the fort's walls. These small cannon would be aimed to deter Federal forces from landing at Fort Sumter.

Graphic Description:
Captured Blakely guns in Charleston Arsenal Yard
Label:
The English Blakely was a rifled cannon that threw "a shell or 12-pound shot with the accuracy of a dueling pistol." It was the first rifled cannon used in American warfare. Both the North and South used Blakelys to supplement other rifled weaponry, namely the Parrotts and Whitworths. After the Civil War, captured Confederate Blakelys were among the cannon displayed at the Charleston Arsenal.

Graphic Description:
A *David* (torpedo ram) in mud next to a seawall in Charleston

Graphic Description:
Various Views of the torpedo boat *David*
Label:
The torpedo ram boat, or *David*, was an ingenious invention of the Confederates. Fast and lean, this new type of vessel proved to be a potentially formidable weapon as it rode low and almost undetected in the water. It carried an explosive charge on a long boom, delivering great harm upon contact with Federal warships. Just two things stood between it and brilliant success – the South's inability to provide materials for construction and wood rot.

Graphic Description:
Submarine *Hunley* as painted by C.W. Chapman

Graphic Description:
Diagrams of the interior of the *Hunley* and a cross-section of the Confederate submarine
Label:
The C.S.S. *Hunley*, a Confederate submarine, was the first in history to successfully sink an enemy ship. Made of boiler plate, it was between 30 and 40 feet long, and 4 to 5 feet in diameter. Eight men operated the hand-powered propeller and a pilot guided the vessel. All operations on the submarine had to be carried out with the use of a single candle. When submerged, the crew often became confused in the near darkness and dizzy from a lack of oxygen.

On the night of February 17, 1864, the *Hunley* successfully completed the mission of sinking the U.S.S. *Housatonic*. That same night, the *Hunley* disappeared. It was speculated that she survived the assault and developed fatal problems on the return trip to shore. However, the reasons for the submarine's disappearance still remain a mystery. Even today, the exact location of the *Hunley* is unknown.

Graphic Description:
Barrel Torpedo outside a Federal bomb proof on Morris Island
    Label:
    The Federal Navy worried a good deal about torpedo mines and spent much time trying to locate and destroy them. Defused torpedoes, like the cigar-shaped object, were occasionally seen as "souvenirs" at Federal land batteries such as this one on Morris Island.

Graphic Description:
Drawings of Confederate torpedoes
    Label:
    Confederate torpedoes beneath the waters of Charleston Harbor were of two general types: one was controlled by remote electric detonation; the other, but direct contact when it touched the hull of a ship.

Artifact Description:
Replica of a 10-inch mortar shell
    Label:
    This 10-inch mortar shell is of the type fired from smoothbore Columbiads.

Artifact Description:
Replicas of 32- and 42-pounder solid shot
    Label:
    Solid shot, like these 32- and 42-pounder examples, were just that: solid cast iron balls.

Artifact Description:
3 friction primers
    Label:
    Friction primers, when placed in the vent of a cannon, were used to ignite the gun's powder charge.

Artifact Description:
15-inch solid shot
    Label:
    Weighing over 400 pounds, this 15-inch solid shot was probably fired from a Union ironclad in an effort to pulverize the fort's walls.

Artifact Description:
13-inch mortar shell
    Label:
    Shells such as this 13-inch mortar were filled with black powder and plugged with a time fuse that was ignited by the firing of the cannon.

Artifact Description:
Replica of a fuse
    Label:
    Time fuses, like this replica, were cut to the appropriate notch to time the explosion of the projectile.

Artifact Description:

Rifled cannon ammunition
> Label:
> The rifled cannon employed against Sumter in 1863-65 proved much more effective than the smoothbores directed at the fort in 1861. Higher muzzle velocity and spiraling projectiles allowed for greater range, accuracy and penetration.

Artifact Description:
Nose & base of a 100-pounder Parrott shell.
> Label:
> The percussion fuse in the nose of the 100-pounder Parrott shell allowed it to detonate upon contact with its target.

Artifact Description:
6.4 inch Schenkl shell.
> Label:
> The 6.4 inch Schenkl shell was one of the projectile types fried from Union rifled artillery.

Artifact Description:
Fuses
> Label:
> Fuses excavated at Sumter

Artifact Description:
300-pounder Parrott bolt
> Label:
> When the Parrott gun was fired, the brass band visible on the bottom of this 300-pounder Parrott bolt expanded to fit the rifling in the barrel, thereby putting a spin on the bolt.

Artifact Description:
Chain shot and 12-pounder case shot
> Label:
> Chain shot and 12-pounder case shot fired from a mountain howitzer proved effective against ships' rigging and attack forces.

Artifact Description:
Stand of grape
> Label:
> The shock of firing would cause this stand of grape shot to break apart and spread in flight, cutting sails and rigging and disabling a ship's crew.

Artifact Description:
Canister (displayed in plexi tube)
> Label:
> Canister shot would burst open when fired and scatter small iron balls among enemy
forces like a giant shotgun blast.

Artifact Description:
Replica of a 12-pounder Blakely Rifled Shell
> Label:
> Replica of a 12-pounder Blakely Rifled Shell

Section XVII

Life Under Siege
Sumter's Confederate Garrison

When Confederates took possession of Fort Sumter, they did so with great confidence and optimism. Quickly they focused on strengthening the fort against enemy attack. In the ensuing months they also spent many hours drilling, watching and waiting. The intensity of the Federal bombardment in 1863 forced the Confederates to realize that Fort Sumter was doomed to ruin.

As the brickwork of the fort blew away under the onslaught of Union fire, the Sumter garrison, aided by slave laborers, replaced the bricks with earth, sand and cotton. Out of necessity they began to burrow into the earthwork to find places to live, work and store their munitions. Long, low narrow passageways connected the quarters and the batteries. In the ensuing months the Confederates were forced to live like moles, existing under dangerous circumstances and unhealthy conditions.

Graphic Description:
Confident Confederates inside Sumter on the Terre Plein of the Gorge

Graphic Description:
Confederates repairing the fort

Graphic Description:
Engraving of the Interior of Fort Sumter being bombarded from Morris Island

Quote:
"To a beholder looking down from the rim of the ruin, all within seems dark and gloomy, save when a chance shower of sparks… lights up for a moment… some of the great rugged blocks of brickwork… and… pools of stagnant water…"

> Lt. John Johnson
> Engineer
> circa 1863

Graphic Description:
Two Confederate soldiers among the shattered brickwork

Graphic Description:
Confederates within the earthwork ruins of Fort Sumter

Quote:
"In harmony with the continual danger by which we were surrounded, the very atmosphere wore the pall of death…"

> Jacob Stroyer
> Slave laborer at Fort Sumter
> Summer 1864

Section XIII

Those Who Would Be Free

African Americans and the Fight for Fort Sumter

Thousands of African Americans were involved in the Civil War, either by force or by choice. The South used slaves as laborers at war points within the Confederacy. The North enlisted more than 170,000 free men of color in the Union Army. These willing soldiers saw action in virtually every theatre of the war, including Charleston

As soon as war commenced in 1861, slaves were gathered from Southern plantations and sent to such Confederate strongholds as Fort Moultrie and Fort Sumter. Amid the chaos of battle they repaired the forts, built batteries, mounted guns, waited on officers and acted as messengers. At Fort Sumter, slaves worked in constant danger to help defend the fort against the very forces seeking to win their freedom.

African American soldiers in the Union Army served voluntarily, distinguishing themselves at such battles as the assault on Fort Wagner on Morris Island. Here, the 54th Massachusetts made history as the first African Americans military regiment to ennoble themselves in battle. As word of their courage spread, thousands of other African Americans volunteered in the war to reunite the country.

Quote:
"There is no time for delay… Liberty won by white men would lack half its luster. Who would be free themselves must strike the blow. Better even to die free than to live slaves."
> Frederick Douglas
> African American Orator and Abolitionist
> circa 1862

Graphic Description:
African American Soldiers in dress uniforms

Graphic Description:
Confederates directing African Americans in the mounting of cannon at Cumming's Point
> Label:
> Confederate forces used slave laborers for such backbreaking tasks as mounting heavy guns at batteries surrounding Charleston Harbor.

Graphic Description:
African American soldiers of Company A of the First South Carolina Federal Volunteers at Beaufort, South Carolina
> Label:
> African Americans proudly volunteered to fight for the Union. Soldiers of color are seen standing here in formation in full uniform after having joined Company A of the First South Carolina Union Volunteers at Beaufort in 1864.

Graphic Description:
54th Massachusetts in front of a Fort Wagner bombproof
> Label:
> In late January of 1863, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton authorized the governor of Massachusetts "…to raise… such corps of infantry for volunteer military service as he may find convenient, and [to] include persons of African descent…" The 54th Massachusetts resulted from this order.